

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4776

1. Name

Historic 405 – 421 South Chapel Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 405 – 421 South Chapel Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition		Check One	Check One
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The east side of the 400 block of S. Chapel St. is predominantly built up with the two-story gable-roofed houses so common in the early 1850s. 413-415 S. Chapel, however, are a pair of two-story-and-attic houses built a few years earlier. 415 had its roof raised to a full third story sometime later. All of the houses have been covered with formstone and all original details are obscured.

The group of six (405 – 409 and 417 – 421) two-bay-wide, two-story brick houses with low-pitched gable roofs are typical of the small alley houses built in Baltimore in the 1850s, often along especially narrow secondary alley streets running perpendicularly off the main “alley” street. Each two-room deep house has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. The pitch of the gable roof is especially low, a characteristic of this particular type of two-story, gable-roofed alley house. The houses are probably constructed in common bond, but all of the facades are now covered with formstone or aluminum siding. The houses have simple brick corbelled cornices, but these are obscured by the formstone covering. Chimneys are located at the rear end of the kitchen addition.

Door and window openings have either segmentally arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums, and wood sills or flat wood lintels and sills. In some cases the first floor window has been replaced with a wider, more fashionable window with a stained glass transom. The remainder of the windows are filled with replacement 1/1 or 6/6 sash. No original doors survive and the row shows a mix of replacement door styles, all surmounted by a single light transom. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a single-light transom, the entrances being reached by one or two brick or concrete steps.

The houses are basically two rooms deep, with the front room being entered directly from the front door. The front and back rooms of the first floor are separated by a wide opening, with the tightly winding, narrow stairs set in the rear room, in the space between the partition wall and the fireplace. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen, with its own cooking fireplace.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1850 - 1860

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

These houses are significant as being representative of a surviving group of extremely modest two-story, gable-roofed houses built in Fells Point in the 1850s and 1860s to serve as inexpensive housing for the influx of newly arrived immigrant families seeking work in harbor-related activities or in the first small factories being built at this time. Houses sold for about \$500 - \$600 to mainly German-American craftsman and laborers, or rented for some \$8 a month. Most such houses were held as rental property and most were located along narrow alley streets, or along even narrower courts. In terms of design, the houses are basically the descendants of earlier Federal-style working class housing built in the early decades of the century, but without the usual dormer story of such houses. Because there is no dormer story the roof slope is much less steep in these later versions of the style. The houses are quite tiny, with two small rooms on each floor and a centrally located, tightly winding, narrow staircase.

They are still inhabited by working class residents.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

B. 4776

405-421 S. Chapel St.

BALTO. MD

1906 City Atlas

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CHOCOL
MILK
CHOCOL

50

ST.

50

ST.

AVE.

AVE.

FOUNTAIN ST.

ST.

ST.

GERMAN AMERICAN
CHEMICAL PAINT & VARNISH
WORKS
DAVIES WHARF

A. BOOTH
PACKING COMPANY

MACHINE SHOP

W. W. WOODWARD &
SONS
COAL
YARD

N. E. ROBERTS BROS.
SYSTEM
PACKING

DAVIS & CO.
PACKING
WAREHOUSE

DAVIS & CO.
PACKING
WAREHOUSE

DAVIS & CO.
PACKING
WAREHOUSE

Id. Sheppard & Co.
RECLINOR STOVE
WORKS

MONROE
STOVE
WORKS

PRIMARY SCHOOL
No. 18

OPERAGE
KING

BOSTON
CAN. MFG.

ST. STANISLAUS
CH.

B-4776
405-421 S. Chapel Street
Block 1773 Lots 078-070
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





PRIVATE
PROPERTY
NO LOITERING
NO TRESPASSING

W. H. B. B. B. B.
W. H. B. B. B. B.
405

407

405-409 S Chapel

FP7

B-4776

405-421 S. Chapel St.

BALTO, MD

C. Belgrave

6/97

1/4

18D

[073387 0211 N 1/4 42



413 S Chapel

FP7

B-4776

405-421 S. Chapel St.

BALTO, MD

C. Belgrave

6/97

2/4

1061087 0011 4 2 1



415 S Chapel

FD7

B-4776

405-421 S. Chapel St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belgrave

6/97

3/4

100

1050387 0217 N 8 8 60



417-421 S Chapel

FP7

B-4776

405-421 S. Chapel St.

BACRO, MD

C. Belfrage

6/97

4/4

180

[04]387 0211 2 1 2 4